

China" policies, without signing onto the WTO agreement on procurement. They promised in 2000, with the passage of PNTR, they promised they would join the agreement on procurement, which meant fair play on contracts between and among governments. Yet China has not only refused to sign on, they also had a strong "Buy China" arrangement in their economy, what would have violated WTO rules. Yet several major opinion leaders—Ivy League economists, pundits on television, newspaper editors, and too many elected officials—pushed back and said we should not do "Buy American" in this country.

China's so-called "indigenous innovation" policies provide preferences to products containing Chinese-developed intellectual property for government procurement purposes. That is why I encourage the Obama administration to launch a section 301 case against the Chinese package of policies that limit market access to U.S. companies in the clean energy sector.

If China leads the clean energy revolution, we will trade dependence on foreign oil with dependence on Chinese or foreign clean energy technologies. With the right investments and with strong trade enforcement, we can make sure that does not happen.

Consider, as you know in Oregon, what is at stake. Five of the top ten solar panel makers in the world are from China. But the No. 1 is First Solar, a U.S. company which has factories around the world that can produce as much energy as any coal or nuclear plant but, of course, much cleaner and more efficient.

One of First Solar's factories is in Perrysburg, OH, and the entrepreneurs behind the company's success started at the University of Toledo. If we want to keep First Solar at the top in the world, and if we want our entrepreneurs to continue to lead the world in innovation, they should have access to all of the world's markets. That is why we need the President of the United States to lead the crusade for vigorous trade enforcement.

Just the launch of a 301 case by this administration will show China we are serious about competing in this emerging market. We cannot enter the next decade of the 21st century further behind, facing the same hurdles that faced our Nation just 10 years ago.

As the G20 summit convenes this weekend and beyond, we must take the buyer's remorse of those who supported China PNTR and make sure we begin the next decade with a rules-based trading system that works for American workers and works for American manufacturers.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF ROBERT C. BYRD, A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 572, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 572) relative to the death of the Honorable ROBERT C. BYRD, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, my heart is heavy with sadness following the passing of a dear friend, ROBERT C. BYRD, Senator from West Virginia.

We have been friends for nearly 50 years and I am overcome with memories. Nearly 48 years ago Senator BYRD was one of the first to greet me in the Chamber of the U.S. Senate.

Since that first moment of friendship we have worked together on many projects. And since those early days, I have called him, "my leader."

He was my mentor. Over the years he provided me countless opportunities and tasked me with positions of critical national oversight while guiding my actions with the temperance he learned as the longest serving Senator in history.

He was a Senator's Senator. His many accomplishments were historic and he fought tirelessly to improve the lives of working families in West Virginia. We shared the belief that we must provide for the people who trust us to represent their communities in Washington.

I owe much to my leader, Senator BYRD. He will forever have my gratitude and respect and I will miss him dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with the Byrd family during this difficult time.

Mr. President, as America mourns, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Senator BYRD.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I know several colleagues have come to the floor today to note the passing of a giant among us, ROBERT BYRD. I want to take a moment here to speak straight from the heart about ROBERT BYRD and my experience working with him. As we look at his desk with the flowers there, we of course think back to not too long ago when we lost another giant, Ted Kennedy. I think what distinguishes these two from others is their unbelievable, undying commitment to the people they represented and to this country.

I think, when all is said and done, that is what it is about. It is not about

how long you serve. Of course, in the case of both Senator Kennedy and Senator BYRD, it was so long. Senator BYRD made history as the longest serving Senator, and that should be duly noted. But it is well beyond that. It is about this fierce sense of "fight for your people" that they both had.

When I came to the Senate, of course ROBERT C. BYRD was a legend for sure. He always met with the incoming Senators, to give them the rules of the road about procedure, about how to conduct yourself when you were in the chair, about the dignity of the Senate, and most of all about reverence for the Constitution. As many know and many saw, the image I will always have of ROBERT C. BYRD is of him reaching inside his suit pocket and bringing out the Constitution—which, along with the Bible, was what he cherished most. He taught us that everything we do here comes from the Founders, and he taught us to love and respect the Constitution and he did it in a way that was truly inspiring.

I can tell you, coming from the largest State in the Union, we have our share of problems. We have floods and fires and droughts, we have pests in our agricultural industry, we have problem after problem—earthquakes, need I say that? Every single time we had one of these disasters, Senator FEINSTEIN and I knew we had to go to our colleagues and say: Please understand, California needs the help of the U.S. Government because the damage is so massive. Of course, we all do that whenever our State has a problem, because we are the United States of America.

However, there are times when you do not have an ear that is listening. Senator BYRD, as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, opened his doors to us, opened his heart to us, opened his experience to us, and was always there for us. I so remember that, time after time.

I went to see him about our water problems. We have lots of water problems. We have cities and suburbs that need the water. We have fishermen who need the water. We have agriculture that needs the water. All the stakeholders have very difficult debates over water. Senator FEINSTEIN and I again have teamed up on this and we have always had a willing listener in ROBERT C. BYRD, who understood and helped us get the stakeholders to the table to find ways to preserve, to conserve, and increase the supply in a smart way for all those stakeholders.

These things are very big to the people of California, who probably have not connected ROBERT BYRD to California. But in all of these cases where we were so in need, he was there for us.

I remember so well his leadership in trying to bring the troops home from Iraq. Twenty-three of us stood up and said no to that war because we thought it meant taking our eye off Osama bin Laden and what was happening in Afghanistan and turning around and going into Iraq. We worried very much